

THE CITY OF GROTON
Eastern Point Historic District Commission

295 Meridian Street
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March 1, 2013

State Senator Andrew Maynard, 18th District
Legislative Office Building
Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Re: Proposed Bill 831
An Act Concerning Fees to Establish Historic Districts

Dear Senator Maynard:

I would like to thank you for introducing Proposed Bill 83. The heart of this action is for the Applicants to be responsible for covering the cost of the publications of Legal Notices with regard to the Historic District's application.

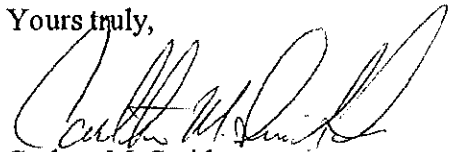
I am endorsing Bill 831 for the following reasons:

- At present there is no cost associated with a Historic District application, should a property owner, or their representative, want to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a project to be constructed within public view. The Municipality has to accept the Application and advertise in the local paper.
- The approximate cost of the advertisements for Legal Notices, for a minimally-worded advertisement, in The New London Day Newspaper, totals approximately \$347.00. The price of the advertisement goes up as verbiage is increased, due to the project size.

- Should the Applicant fail to appear at the meeting, the monies from advertising the Legal Notices are then lost. Should the same Applicant come in the following month and begin the application process again, the Municipality is then paying again for Legal Notices to be published, again at the Municipality's expense. For the volunteers that have committed to staffing the Commission, this is also a total loss of their time, should the Applicant be the only one on the Agenda. The money that Municipalities put forth publishing Legal Notices, both prior to, and after, an Applicant's hearing is unfair to the taxpayers. In the City of Groton, this has happened on more occasions then we care to discuss.

Adding the verbiage to allow Municipalities to recover the cost of processing applications will help to insure the Applicant appears at the scheduled hearing, as well as not wasting volunteer and paid staff time and effort to ensure compliance with State Statue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlton M. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Carlton M. Smith
Building Official
CMS/djs

cc: CJ Strand, Legislative Aide